

A NEW MEMBER OF THE RUBIACEAE FROM PANAMA: GEOPHILA CROATII

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GEOPHILA CROATII Steyermark, sp. nov.

Herbacea serpens, caulis glabris; stipulis lanceolatis vel late triangularibus subacutis vel acuminatis 3-4 mm. longis 1.5-3 mm. latis glabris; foliis petiolatis, petiolis glabris, eis surculorum sterilium elongatis 4-9 cm. longis uno latere pilosulo excepto, eis surculorum fertilium brevioribus 0.5-2.5 cm. longis; laminis late ovatis vel oblongo-lanceolatis apice acutis vel acuminatis basi cordatis 2.5-6 cm. longis 1.5-4.5 cm. latis ubique glabris pinnatinervatis, nervis lateralibus utroque latere 4-7 ante marginem 1-5 mm. anastomosantibus subtus paullo prominulis; inflorescentiis (4-)7-8-floris capitato-umbellatis pedunculatis, pedunculo glabro sub anthesi 1-2 mm. longo sub fructu 7-13 mm. longo, floribus breviter pedicellatis, pedicellis glabris sub anthesi 0.5-1 mm. longis sub fructu 2-3 mm. longis; bracteis duobus sub inflorescentiis oblongo-lanceolatis inaequaliter 3-lobatis 5-6 mm. longis 2-2.5 mm. latis omnino glabris; bracteis interioribus sub floribus oblongo-lanceolatis vel lanceolatis acutis vel acuminatis 3-4.5 mm. longis 1-1.5 mm. latis glabris integris; calyce hypanthioque 4.5-5.5 mm longo, hypanthio cylindrico-oblongo 2-2.5 mm. longo 1-1.1 mm. lato; calycis lobis 5 linear-ioblanceolatis vel anguste lanceolatis subcaudatis sub anthesi 2.5-3 mm. longis 0.5 mm. latis sub fructu 3.5 mm. longis 0.8-0.9 mm. latis omnino glabris; corolla glabra in alabastro praeter apicem pilis paucis ornatum; fructu ovoideo manifeste angulato 4 mm. longo 3.5 mm. lato glabro. PANAMA: Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone, Zetek trail, 3 Oct. 1968, Thomas B. Croat 6647 (holotype, MO); same locality, Zetek trail 2280, 22 June 1970, Croat 10989 (paratype, MO).

This taxon is most closely related to G. gracilis (R. & P.) DC., with which it was recently confused by Dr. Louis O. Williams (*Phytologia* 26: 263. 1973). From that species, known only from Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil, it is distinguished by the glabrous upper leaf surface and longer calyx lobes. From G. macropoda (R. & P.) DC. it differs in the glabrous, much shorter peduncles, acute to acuminate stipules and leaf apex, glabrous outer surface of floral bracts, non-ciliate calyx-lobes, completely glabrous nerves

of the lower leaf surface, and the abundant cystoliths on the lower leaf surface.

An English description and further discussion will be provided in the Flora of Panama (John D. Dwyer) and the Flora of Barro Colorado Island (Thomas B. Croat). Both of these publications are expected in 1977 or 1978.

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